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General and complete disarmament

Reducing nuclear danger; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; and nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 68/40, 68/42 and 68/47.

2. In paragraph 3 of resolution 68/42, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken with respect to the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its sixty-ninth session.

3. In paragraph 5 of resolution 68/40, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war, and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider convening an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

4. In paragraph 23 of resolution 68/47, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Observations

5. Since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/68/137), Governments and civil society have carried forward with growing determination their efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, including through major international initiatives intended to promote the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament and to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

6. From 13 to 14 February 2014, the Government of Mexico hosted the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Nayarit. A total of 146 States, various United Nations entities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and numerous non-governmental organizations attended the conference to discuss the global and long-term consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. The Nayarit conference followed up on the first conference, held in Oslo in March 2013, which had focused on the immediate impact of the use of nuclear weapons. The Nayarit conference concluded that beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socioeconomic development would be hampered, the environment would be damaged and suffering would be widespread, especially for the poor and most vulnerable. During the course of the conference, the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria announced that he would host a follow-up international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which is to take place in Vienna in December 2014.

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/39, on 26 September 2013 in New York the General Assembly hosted its first-ever high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament. A total of 74 heads of State and Government, foreign ministers and other high-level officials participated in the event. The President of the General

Assembly prepared a summary document as the outcome of the high-level meeting (A/68/563). Participants considered the high level of attendance in the event to be a clear manifestation of support for nuclear disarmament. States used the opportunity to discuss general principles related to nuclear disarmament and the relationship between non-proliferation and disarmament. They also took stock of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral disarmament commitments and disarmament proposals and discussed various approaches to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", in which it, inter alia, declared 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and decided to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review progress made in this regard.

8. The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2014, with the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations serving as Chair. The Committee successfully completed the necessary procedural preparations for the 2015 Review Conference, including the adoption of its agenda. As the Committee was unable to reach agreement on substantive recommendations to the Review Conference, the Chair circulated a working paper on his own authority reflecting his understanding of the matters of substance raised by States parties, without prejudice to the work of the Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.46). On nuclear disarmament, the working paper reflected the need for the full and urgent implementation of article VI of the Treaty and the outcomes of previous Review Conferences. Towards that end, it included recommendations that the 2015 Review Conference take stock of the national reports and working papers submitted by the nuclear-weapon States and consider the next steps for the full implementation of article VI, as well as the steps and actions agreed at previous Review Conferences; reaffirm the importance of various multilateral measures that could and should be taken in support of a world without nuclear weapons; and consider additional measures, including those that would enhance confidence through increased transparency and the development of effective and efficient verification capabilities related to nuclear disarmament.

9. Throughout its 2014 session, the Conference on Disarmament was unable to commence negotiations or substantive deliberations on the basis of an agreed programme of work. In March 2014, the Conference did approve a mandate for the re-establishment of the informal working group on a programme of work, although that body has been unable to find a way to break the impasse as of the date of this report.

10. In light of the continued paralysis in the Conference on Disarmament, the Group of Governmental Experts to develop recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to, but not negotiate, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices held its first session from 31 March to 11 April 2014 in Geneva, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The second session of the Group is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 11 to 22 August 2014.

Failing the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, the group will hold up to two more sessions of two weeks each in 2015.

11. The Disarmament Commission held its substantive session from 7 to 25 April 2014 in New York, ending its three-year cycle without achieving consensus on matters of substance. The session was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations. The Working Group on agenda item 4 ("Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons") had conducted its work on the basis of several working papers, including a working paper submitted by its Chair, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Canada, on "General guiding elements for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation" (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.3/Rev.1).

12. The international community made some progress towards the consolidation and further establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones:

(a) On 6 May 2014, at a ceremony on the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear-weapon States, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, signed the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. The Protocol provides a legally binding assurance by the nuclear-weapon States that they will respect the application of the Treaty in Central Asia and neither use, nor threaten to use, nuclear weapons against the parties to the Treaty. The signing of the Protocol marked an important milestone towards the consolidation of the zone;

(b) As discussed further in the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/27, the facilitator and conveners for the postponed conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction intensified their efforts aimed at bringing the States of the region together to discuss and reach agreement on the arrangements for the conference, including its agenda, modalities and rules of procedure;

(c) The third preparatory meeting for the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia was held on 7 May 2014 in New York. The Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations chaired the meeting. States used the opportunity to assess the current status of treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones and to discuss possible elements for the outcome document of the third Conference, which will be held in 2015 in New York.

13. The nuclear-weapon States continued their efforts related to the implementation of commitments on nuclear disarmament, principally through efforts aimed at promoting greater transparency through multilateral and unilateral means and implementing their treaty obligations:

(a) The nuclear-weapon States held their fifth conference on 14 and 15 April 2014 in Beijing. The meeting built upon their previous conferences in 2009 in London, 2011 in Paris, 2012 in Washington, D.C., and 2013 in Geneva. The nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to the shared goal of nuclear disarmament and to general and complete disarmament, as provided for in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They emphasized the importance of the joint efforts in implementing the actions agreed to at the 2010

Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. The nuclear-weapon States also reviewed their work on specific joint initiatives, such as a glossary of key nuclear terms and a common reporting framework;

(b) The Russian Federation and the United States continued to work towards the full implementation of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. As of 1 March 2014, according to the data provided by the parties on their aggregate holdings of strategic offensive arms, the Russian Federation possessed 498 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,512 warheads on those systems; the United States possessed 778 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,585 warheads on those systems. At the session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission held in February 2014 in Geneva, the parties reached agreement on additional procedures for inspecting deployed United States Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles and on the telemetric information on intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missile launches to be exchanged in 2014;

(c) In April 2014, the United States released newly declassified data, updating annual figures for the first time since 2010 on the total size of its nuclear weapons stockpiles, which consisted of 4,804 warheads as of September 2013. The data also provided updated figures indicating that since 30 September 2009, the United States had dismantled 1,204 nuclear warheads, with several thousand additional nuclear warheads that were retired and awaiting dismantlement. France and the United Kingdom had previously released information indicating the upper limit of the number of nuclear warheads in their respective stockpiles.

14. Other States also continued to undertake or initiate new efforts aimed in various ways at facilitating the nuclear disarmament process:

(a) The members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), joined by two new members, continued their engagement at the ministerial level.[1] On 26 September 2013, in New York, the members of the Initiative issued their seventh ministerial statement, delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. In their statement, the members of the Initiative, inter alia, urged all nuclear-weapon States and those States outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to take steps towards the speedy, final and total elimination of their nuclear weapons, including through greater transparency and diminishing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in military doctrine and concepts, and reducing the operational readiness of nuclear weapon systems. On 12 April 2014, the foreign ministers of the member States of the Initiative met in Hiroshima, Japan, where they heard testimonies by survivors of the atomic bomb (Hibakusha) and, in their eighth ministerial statement, invited the world's political leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to witness first-hand the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the atomic bombings. The Ministers stated that ongoing discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be

[1] Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and new members, Nigeria and the Philippines.

inclusive and universal and a catalyst for united global action towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons;

(b) On 24 April 2014, the Marshall Islands simultaneously filed applications with the International Court of Justice against nine States (China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States), accusing them of not fulfilling their obligations with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament. In its applications, the Marshall Islands requested the Court to order the respondents to take all necessary steps to comply with their respective obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and under customary international law within one year of its judgment, including the initiation of negotiations on a convention on nuclear disarmament.

15. Despite some progress in implementing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, Member States and civil society have expressed growing frustration with the slow pace of progress. While the nuclear-armed States with the largest nuclear arsenals have continued to make progress in reducing their deployment of strategic nuclear weapons, the total estimated number of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, still amounts to several thousand. Moreover, a number of States continue to rely on nuclear weapons in their defence and security policies and many of those States have continued to pursue programmes intended to modernize their nuclear weapons, delivery systems and related infrastructure. Some nuclear-armed States have also continued to quantitatively expand their nuclear arsenals. In light of the persistent stalemate that has continued to plague the United Nations disarmament machinery, the demonstrable lack of progress towards the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons has led to a continuing search for new means to carry forward the work of achieving the common goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

16. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs have continued their efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Secretary-General called for the nuclear-weapon States to intensify their efforts at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. In January 2014, the Secretary-General spoke at the Conference on Disarmament for the fourth time and urged that body to live up to the expectations of the international community, lest it be overtaken by events. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March 2014, the Secretary-General warned that nuclear security would be jeopardized by the very existence of such weapons and by the vast amounts of weapons-usable nuclear material in stockpiles outside any international regulatory controls. Reflecting the changing discourse on nuclear weapons in recent years, the Secretary-General stated that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons required that nuclear disarmament be treated as a top priority.

III. Information received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[14 April 2014]

The views of Cuba are submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 68/42, entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons".

On 8 July 1996, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. Almost 20 years have passed since the Court declared the use of nuclear weapons illegal. However, very little progress has been made towards achieving the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The human race and our entire ecosystem remain at risk of disappearing, given the existence and potential use of 17,270 ever more powerful nuclear weapons. As long as nuclear weapons exist there is a danger that they might be used. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

It is disturbing that the use of this kind of weapon remains a fundamental part of the military and defence doctrines of certain nuclear powers and that their use might be considered even against non-nuclear-weapon States in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons.

In accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon States have a legal obligation not only to pursue, but also to bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament under a strict and effective international verification system. However, some nuclear powers limit the nuclear problem to the issue of horizontal non-proliferation, while proceeding with the modernization of their nuclear arsenals.

Cuba is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to the international treaties on chemical and biological weapons. In the General Assembly, it supports resolutions that advocate the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is also a party to other regional multilateral mechanisms dealing with nuclear disarmament; for example, it is a party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Latin America was the first region to declare itself a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Recently, at the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana in January 2014, the region was formally declared a zone of peace, marking an unprecedented and historic milestone and a substantive step on the long road towards general and complete disarmament.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, of which Cuba is honoured to be a member, has reaffirmed on several occasions the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith, and bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

As a member of the Conference on Disarmament, Cuba is in favour of giving priority to commencing negotiations on a phased programme for nuclear disarmament, culminating in the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. In the same vein, our country regards the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, as an important concrete step towards the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[9 April 2014]

As the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador said in his statement at the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, foreign policy regarding nuclear weapons is based on the constitution, in which Ecuador condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction because it believes them to be a threat to the survival of humankind.

In accordance with that principle, Ecuador has ratified all pertinent international instruments, notably the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and additional protocols on safeguards and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Ecuador endorsed the declaration on nuclear disarmament adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Buenos Aires in August 2013, which reiterated that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and of the Charter of the United Nations. It also endorsed the special declaration on nuclear disarmament adopted at the second summit of the Community, held in Havana in January 2014, which stressed that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity, constituting at the same time a violation of international law and international humanitarian law, as determined in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

In addition, as a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Ecuador endorsed the statement made on the occasion of the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Mexico in February 2014, which recalled the opinion of the Court and reaffirmed the need for States to comply at all times with international law, including international humanitarian law.

The foregoing clearly demonstrates the political will of Ecuador to recognize and be bound by the opinion of the International Court of Justice in matters of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Georgia accords special attention to the problems of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of disarmament, as the most important means for guaranteeing international stability and combating the most dangerous threat to

modern society — terrorism. Furthermore, Georgia calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, as reaffirmed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

According to Georgian legislation, the issues referred to in resolution 68/42 are regulated by the law entitled "On the control of export-import of armaments, military equipment and goods of dual-purpose use". Pursuant to international and Georgian national security interests and the enforcement of regimes on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the law defines the fundamentals and rules of control on armaments, military equipment, raw materials, tools, technologies, scientific and technical information and the import and export of services connected to their production and use.

The Inter-Agency Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was established pursuant to decree No. 408 of the Government of Georgia. The Commission has elaborated a draft national action plan for 2014-2015 on the implementation of international humanitarian law. One of the aims of the action plan is to fulfil the international obligations on arms control and disarmament undertaken by Georgia. The main governmental bodies for the implementation of the above-mentioned requirements are the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Service), the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection and the National Security Council of Georgia.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2014]

Iraq concurs with the rest of the world that the use of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law and calls upon all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, to fulfil their obligations pursuant to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice by immediately commencing multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention on the elimination of nuclear weapons and prohibiting their production, possession or use.

Iraq believes that the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice is part of the body of international legislation concerning the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons and that the legal obligation of States, according to the opinion of the Court, is not merely to engage in negotiations, but to conclude them, with the aim of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

Under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-weapon States have the obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith to achieve general and complete nuclear disarmament at an early date. Iraq supports the formation of an ad hoc committee of the Conference on Disarmament, with a specific mandate to negotiate a convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and stresses the need for such a committee.

Nuclear disarmament is a constant feature and a priority of Iraqi foreign policy, in line with the 2005 permanent constitution of the Republic of Iraq; the

special role assigned to that question in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1978; and the conclusions of the International Court of Justice in its 1996 advisory opinion. The devastating nature of such weapons makes their total elimination a necessity if humanity is to survive and life is to continue on Earth. The continued existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to international peace and security.

The Government of Iraq attaches great importance to the issue of general disarmament. Iraq has acceded to all the principal disarmament treaties and affirms its full commitment to the implementation of all their provisions and requirements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which it ratified in 1969, and the implementation of the model additional protocol to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iraq has also acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

The adherence of the Government of Iraq to conventions and treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation stems from its belief that universal accession to international conventions on weapons of mass destruction can provide the international community with a real guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons, in addition to achieving international peace and security.

Iraq endorses the opinion of the International Court of Justice and calls upon all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to abide by it. Iraq has taken every opportunity to endorse the advisory opinion in the official statements and working papers it has presented at all international forums.

During the Iraqi presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in June 2013, the Conference managed to break its 16-year deadlock and succeeded in establishing an informal working group to determine a programme of work for the Conference (decision contained in document CD/1956/Rev.1, adopted on 16 August 2013).

The Government of Iraq stresses the need for a binding international instrument to provide guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States that nuclear-weapon States will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

The Government of Iraq concurs with the international community that nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest and most serious threats to international peace and security. Heightened security measures are vital to preventing terrorists and other unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear and radioactive materials. We also reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Iraq to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitute a threat to international peace and security. We call for that resolution to be fully implemented.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2014]

Lebanon wishes to reiterate that:

- It does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction. It complies with the United Nations resolutions in that regard and is opposed to the legality of the threat or use of such weapons.
- It welcomes and supports all initiatives aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament, especially in the Middle East, and emphasizes that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction. It is, however, concerned at the failure of Israel to comply with international law. Israel maintains a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the States of the region and consequently to international peace and security.
- It is essential for the Arab States to continue to call for the establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, because that is the only available option for coping with the dangers which the nuclear armaments of Israel and its other weapons of mass destruction represent for international peace and Arab national security.
- The international community should continue to demand that all States in the region, including Israel, should sign treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons.
- It is essential to unify the Arab position, step up the role of the League of Arab States and take action to acquire the scientific knowledge and secure the equipment required to protect against weapons of mass destruction. It is also vital to continue the efforts to emphasize that Israel is a State which is not a party to the international conventions.
- It calls for the introduction and development of the use of peaceful nuclear technologies in all fields that serve sustainable development and that the various needs of the Arab States be taken into account.

Libya

[Original: Arabic]
[15 April 2014]

Libya believes that responsibility for taking measures to implement the resolution lies with the nuclear-weapon States, which must take practical steps in that regard and provide assurances to the international community, particularly non-nuclear-weapon States.

Non-nuclear-weapon States must press for the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament to issue a legally binding United Nations instrument prohibiting the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Libya supports all efforts towards nuclear disarmament, particularly those of the United Nations. It supports the five-point proposal of the Secretary-General, including the holding of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement

on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification.

Libya decided in 2003 to abandon its military nuclear programme, thereby strengthening the principle of nuclear non-proliferation and reducing the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Libya believes that the definitive and fundamental solution to the threat posed by nuclear weapons is for the nuclear-weapon States promptly to cease the production, development, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and immediately begin serious and credible negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a verifiable time frame under strict and effective international control.

All relevant international forums must continue to urge all States to eliminate nuclear weapons and the threat that they pose. They must work to adopt an international instrument prohibiting the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[19 May 2014]

In United Nations forums, Mexico has been a regular, active and committed advocate of disarmament and the achievement of international peace and security and has stressed the urgent need to ban and totally eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding instrument under strict and effective international control.

In this regard, Mexico has spearheaded various actions, in its national capacity and in conjunction with other like-minded countries, to move nuclear disarmament forward:

(a) Each year, Mexico co-sponsors the resolution entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons", submitted by Malaysia;

(b) Mexico submitted the draft resolution, adopted as resolution 68/26, entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)";

(c) Together with the group of co-sponsors of resolution 67/56, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", Mexico submitted a new draft resolution under the same agenda item, adopted as resolution 68/46, in order to follow up on the work of the Open-ended Working Group;

(d) Each year, together with Australia and New Zealand, Mexico submits a resolution to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Mexico also maintains that concerns about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons should be the basis for actions in the area of disarmament. Mexico has been a party to the collective statements made on that subject since 2012 and in 2014 it hosted the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Nayarit.

The vision of the Chair (Mexico) of the conference is reflected in the Chair's summary, which drew attention to the fact that weapons had been eliminated after being outlawed, which is consistent with the obligations derived from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Geneva Conventions. The summary concludes that "discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should lead to the commitment of States and civil society to reach new international standards and norms, through a legally binding instrument", and that "the time has come to initiate a diplomatic process conducive to this goal. ... this process should comprise a specific timeframe, the definition of the most appropriate fora, and a clear and substantive framework ...".

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[30 May 2014]

In the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/42, Ukraine has consistently demonstrated its readiness to participate actively in a multilateral negotiation process aimed at the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.

In 1994, Ukraine became a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on certain conditions. Those conditions included security assurances given to Ukraine by the five nuclear-weapon States in exchange for its accession to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State. In the 20 years since signing the Treaty, Ukraine has faithfully fulfilled all the provisions of the Treaty and has also met additional obligations as part of the nuclear summit process, including by renouncing the use of highly enriched uranium.

Despite the criminal violation by the Russian Federation of its commitments to Ukraine under the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), Ukraine has remained consistent in respecting its international obligations. Moreover, in a joint statement by Ukraine and the United States of America, issued at the Hague nuclear summit in March 2014, Ukraine reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, firmly establishing its leadership in matters of nuclear security and non-proliferation.

In addition to participating in negotiations on nuclear disarmament in various international forums, Ukraine takes part in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts established by General Assembly resolution 67/53 to make recommendations on possible aspects of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

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Reducing nuclear danger; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; and nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/69/150.

** The information contained in the addendum was received after the deadline for the submission of the main report.

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III. Information received from Governments

Austria

[Original: English]
[15 September 2014]

Austria considers the existence of nuclear weapons to be unacceptable given the risks of their use, either intentionally or by accident or mistake, and the resulting unacceptable humanitarian consequences. Austria believes that it is difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with international law, in particular, with fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

Austria has vigorously supported nuclear disarmament efforts, which it considers an obligation for all States. At the national level, the commitment to pursue a world without nuclear weapons is enshrined in the 1999 constitutional law (149/1999) on "A nuclear-free Austria": "It is prohibited to produce, stockpile, transfer, test or use a nuclear weapon in Austria. It is further prohibited to establish installations for the stockpiling of nuclear weapons in Austria." (article 1).

Austria supports efforts for an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. Austria's support for multilateral nuclear disarmament also refers to the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as to efforts to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations like the Open-ended Working Group established in Geneva in 2013 (see General Assembly resolutions 67/56 and 68/46). Furthermore, Federal President Heinz Fischer participated as opening speaker in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013 and stated that "The peoples of the world have the right to live without this menace (namely, nuclear weapons). (...) Nuclear weapons should be stigmatized, banned and eliminated before they abolish us." Austria supported Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

Consistent with the recognition in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference of "the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and ... the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law", Austria and like-minded States presented joint statements on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament during meetings of the NPT Preparatory Committee and the Assembly. In order to underline the urgency of nuclear disarmament, help to fundamentally change the discourse on nuclear weapons and foster the understanding that any use of nuclear weapons would be morally repugnant and devastating in its global effects, Austria participated in the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo in 2013 and in Nayarit, Mexico in 2014 and will host the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons on 8 and 9 December 2014.

India

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[27 August 2014]

India joined as co-sponsor of General Assembly resolution 68/42.

India's support for the existence of an obligation to pursue in good faith and to conclude nuclear disarmament negotiations is not based on the provisions of any particular legal instrument but is a logical extension of India's consistent political support for nuclear disarmament. India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

India's working paper CD/1816 enumerated specific steps, including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons; reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines; measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger; negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear-weapon States on "no first use" of nuclear weapons; negotiation of a universal and legally binding agreement on the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States; negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame.

India considers the Conference on Disarmament the appropriate forum for the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament through the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate agreed by consensus as part of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work.

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Sixty-ninth session
Items 97 (j), (s) and (dd) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures; assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them; and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by Member States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/50, 68/34 and 68/48, which cover the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the assistance to States provided in that context and the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures.

The reporting period, from August 2013 to July 2014, was positively characterized by the successful outcome of the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and by the adoption of the first Security Council resolution on small arms.

* A/69/50.

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 67/50, entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its sixty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of practical disarmament measures, taking into consideration the activities of the Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures in this regard.

2. By its resolution 68/34, entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them", the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so, to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

3. By its resolution 68/48, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", the General Assembly called upon all Member States to contribute to the continued implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Programme of Action) at the national, regional and global levels. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution.

4. The present report is submitted pursuant to the requests made by the General Assembly in the above-mentioned resolutions. To enable a coherent approach to be taken to those overlapping and interconnected issues, the three resolutions are addressed together in the present report.

II. Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures; assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them; and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

A. United Nations system

1. Security Council

5. On 26 September 2013, under the presidency of Australia, the Security Council held an open debate on the issue of small arms and considered the biennial report of the Secretary-General to the Council on the same issue (S/2013/503). The Council then adopted resolution 2117 (2013), its first resolution on small arms and light weapons.

6. In resolution 2117 (2013), the Security Council highlighted the need for Member States, international and regional and subregional organizations to share with panels of experts relevant information related to the arms embargoes mandated by the Council; the strengthening of the role of peacekeeping missions to support the work of panels of experts and host Governments in implementing weapons collection, stockpile management, record-keeping and weapons-tracing measures; and the reaffirmation of the intention of the Council to take appropriate measures,

when needed, to strengthen the mechanisms for monitoring arms embargoes, including through assigning dedicated staff or monitoring units to relevant United Nations missions to monitor arms embargoes effectively.

7. In resolution 2117 (2013), the Council reiterated the linkages between the illicit transfer, the destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on the one hand and international humanitarian and human rights law and the protection of civilians on the other. It also highlighted the need for the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument) and urged States to consider signing and ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible.

2. General Assembly

Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and outcome of the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

8. The fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons was convened from 16 to 20 June 2014 in New York. The meeting, which was chaired by Zahir Tanin, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, concluded successfully with the adoption, by consensus, of a final report to which a substantive outcome document was annexed.

9. Sixty-eight States had submitted a national report on their implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

10. The agenda of the meeting included the following substantive items: stockpile management, including physical security measures; implementation of the International Tracing Instrument; and international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, training and the transfer of technology and equipment. States also discussed the follow-up to the second Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action and agreed on a recommendation on topics to be considered at the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts in 2015.

11. The Meeting considered a report by the Secretary-General on recent developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons and their implications for the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/1). The report covered various developments, such as key new trends in the manufacture and design of small arms and light weapons, including modular weapons that can be fitted with different components and even change their calibre and the printing of weapons using three-dimensional printers. New technologies that could potentially enhance the marking, record-keeping and tracing of weapons, such as biometric or radio frequency identification technology, were also highlighted. Additionally, the report contained suggestions for the uptake of these new technologies, including in the context of international cooperation and assistance. In this regard, it was stressed in the report that, to be

effective, technology transfers needed to be embedded in wider plans for training, compatibility, maintenance and regional harmonization.

12. Following constructive discussions during the Meeting, States agreed to undertake several measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The most prominent of those measures were:

(a) To take advantage of technological advances to strengthen stockpile management, noting the importance of the transfer of related technology;

(b) To consider further developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons and their implications for the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

(c) To urge States and international and regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so to render cooperation and assistance and the transfer of technology and equipment, in line with the needs and priorities of recipient States;

(d) To consider options for developing a comprehensive international assistance framework to provide resources, training, capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries, to support the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (see A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/WP.1/Rev.1, paras. 19, 39, 44 and 58).

Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Firearms Protocol)

13. During the reporting period, the number of States parties to the Firearms Protocol increased to 109. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to provide legislative assistance and technical support in strengthening firearms control regimes, in building capacity to investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking and related crimes and in promoting regional and international cooperation. UNODC provided tailored legislative assistance and advice to Benin, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. A comprehensive training curriculum on firearms in modular form is under development.

14. UNODC delivered specialized training courses on investigating firearms trafficking to practitioners in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ghana and Senegal and held a regional seminar for the countries of West Africa and the Sahel region to promote legislative harmonization and support the implementation of the international and regional instruments on firearms. Moreover, in coordination with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNODC began a process of providing technical assistance for marking firearms through the procurement of marking machines and delivery of training to national authorities in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger and Senegal. In cooperation with other partners, UNODC also initiated the development of software for registering seized firearms, which States can use to record and analyse data relating to the seizure of firearms.

15. UNODC presented to the second meeting of the Working Group on Firearms, which was held in Vienna from 26 to 28 May 2014 the preliminary findings from its global study on firearms trafficking, which focused on the transnational routes and modus operandi of firearms trafficking, its links to other cross-border trafficking flows and possible connections to organized crime and terrorism.

16. The working group encouraged States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to develop or strengthen coordination among relevant and competent national authorities, with a view to enhancing capacities for statistics and data collection, analysis and information sharing related to illicit firearms trafficking.

Broader initiatives related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

Arms Trade Treaty

17. On 3 June 2013, the Arms Trade Treaty was opened for signature in New York. Since then, 118 States have signed the treaty, which is a legally binding instrument that sets common international standards for the regulation of the global arms trade, including small arms and light weapons.

18. The Treaty contains a number of provisions that supplement or complement existing global instruments to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, such as the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. The Treaty not only includes small arms and light weapons in its scope, but also covers their ammunition.

19. States parties to the Treaty are required to take measures to regulate exports of parts and components, transit and trans-shipment, and arms brokering — all highly relevant in the context of small arms control. Another provision of the Treaty that is of particular relevance to efforts to curb the flows of small arms and light weapons into the illicit market is that each State party involved in the transfer of conventional arms must take measures to prevent their diversion. To this effect, the provision of international assistance to help States parties build their capabilities in stockpile management is also encouraged in the Treaty.

20. It is also noteworthy that States parties to the Treaty are required to report on their annual authorized or actual exports and imports of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons. That is a step forward vis-à-vis the Register of Conventional Arms, which does not include small arms and light weapons as one of its main categories.

United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

21. An increasing number of Governments recognize the need for focused and effective funding to support conventional arms regulation. In response to these requests, in June 2013 the United Nations launched the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation as a multi-donor, flexible funding mechanism.

22. The Trust Facility is designed to fund projects aimed at supporting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Programme of Action. It aims to improve the effectiveness of assistance through better coordination, monitoring and

matching of resources and to promote increased sustainability through more predictable sources of funding.

23. The Trust Facility issues an annual call for proposals and invites the partners of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and research institutes to submit project proposals. As a result of the call for proposals in 2013, eight projects were funded that aimed to support Member States in their efforts to implement the Programme of Action, sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty and understand better the complementarities between the Treaty and the Programme of Action.

24. The Trust Facility also provides for the possibility of funding special circumstances projects to address emergency situations requiring a rapid response. Proposals for such projects can be submitted all year around. In 2013, it funded one special circumstances project in the Philippines to help clean up and secure ammunition that was scattered over a large area following the destruction of an ammunition depot by Typhoon Haiyan.

Armed violence and development

25. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published an occasional paper on how to establish and maintain gun-free zones. Although such zones may be known by different names in different places, the concept is the same: geographically limited spaces — in addition to those areas where most national legislation already creates a gun-free environment, such as courthouses or airports — where local regulations prohibit the carrying or possession of guns by civilians in order to reduce armed violence and promote public safety. Providing comprehensive information on how to establish and maintain a gun-free zone will assist national Governments, local authorities and international development and peacebuilding organizations in their efforts to prevent and reduce armed violence.[1]

United Nations Register of Conventional Arms

26. Since its establishment in 1992, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms has been a primary instrument for transparency as regards the international trade in conventional heavy weapons. Since 2003, Member States have also been able to report voluntarily on international transfers of small arms and light weapons as part of their background information. The Register has developed a standard reporting template for this purpose, which breaks down small arms and light weapons into 13 subcategories.

27. To date, 80 Member States have reported on their exports and imports of small arms and light weapons to the Register, or the absence of such transfers, at least once. Although not within the scope of the Register, some States have also reported on national holdings of weapons, their procurement through domestic production and permits/authorizations for export, in addition to actual transfers, and on transfers of ammunition. In recent years, over 50 per cent of the States which submit reports to the Register have included information on transfers of small arms and light weapons.

[1] See *The Gun-Free Zone: A Tool to Prevent and Reduce Armed Violence* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.6), available from www.un.org/disarmament/publications/occasionalpapers.

United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms

28. The United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism was established in 1998 to formulate and implement a multidisciplinary and coordinated approach to the problem of illicit small arms within the United Nations system.

29. In the course of the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty, the Secretary-General requested the mechanism to undertake an inter-agency study on the adverse effects of unregulated arms transfers on States and citizens and their impact on the work of the United Nations, which was published in March 2013.[2]

30. Notably, partners in the mechanism were fully involved in the process of preparing for the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action and delivered a joint statement underlining its central role in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system on issues related to small arms and light weapons. That is a topic of relevance for areas as diverse as peacekeeping, gender, public health, human rights, disarmament, international trade and development.

International Small Arms Control Standards

31. The International Small Arms Control Standards launched by the United Nations in 2012 provide practical guidance on putting in place effective controls over the full life cycle of small arms and light weapons, based on commitments that Member States have made in relevant global instruments. The Standards ensure that, no matter which part of the United Nations a Member State approaches with a request for support related to small arms and light weapons control, the support and advice provided to the Member State would be consistent.

32. Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) encourages the application of the Standards to guide effective physical security and stockpile management practices.

33. During the reporting period, partners in the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism have continued to use the Standards to good effect in assisting Member States to strengthen national controls over small arms and light weapons. The following examples indicate some of the different ways in which United Nations entities have used the Standards:

(a) The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, together with the Mine Action Service, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have drawn heavily on the Standards to advise and support the Government of Somalia on stockpile management, including physical security measures and marking and record-keeping of small arms and light weapons imported under the partially lifted arms embargo;

(b) The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa have used the Standards to help elaborate an integrated strategy to counter terrorism and arms trafficking in Central Africa;

[2] *The Impact of Poorly Regulated Arms Transfers on the Work of the United Nations* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IX.5), available from www.un.org/disarmament/publications/occasionalpapers.

(c) The United Nations Development Group, which brings together the 32 United Nations entities that play a role in development, has committed to applying the Standards in the support it provides to national partners in the area of small arms control;

(d) The Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean has used the Standards to develop specific training curricula and manuals and standard operating procedures on general small arms control, as well as on marking, stockpile management and destruction for use across the region. In Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa has made use of the Standards to train border control forces in Côte d'Ivoire on small arms control and develop national standards on stockpile management;

(e) With support from UNDP, seven cantons in Bosnia and Herzegovina have used the Standards to design and carry out a weapons collection and destruction campaign. In Kosovo, also with the support of UNDP, over 1,300 small arms and light weapons were destroyed in accordance with the Standards;

(f) The Standards have also been used beyond the United Nations system. International training institutes, such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana and the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya, have begun integrating the Standards into their training curricula on small arms and light weapons. The Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group has integrated the Standards and the accompanying assessment tool into its small arms training course and will use the assessment tool described below when conducting staff assessment visits to storage sites.

34. During the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism launched additional modules of the Standards, which provide practical guidance on legislative and regulatory aspects of small arms and light weapons control, including national controls over manufacture, international transfer (reflecting the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty) and end user and end use of internationally transferred weapons, as well as putting in place national coordinating mechanisms to strengthen small arms control.

35. To support the global application of the Standards, UNIDIR has developed a software assessment tool (the ISACS assessment tool) designed to facilitate use of the Standards and, in particular, to allow users including the United Nations, States, regional organizations and civil society organizations to assess how their policies, programmes and practices regarding small arms and light weapons control align with international standards.

36. During the reporting period, that software has been released globally and made available to interested users free of charge. It has supported the practical application of the Standards, in particular on stockpile management, marking and record-keeping and weapons collection and destruction, in several States representing a range of capacity and geographic locations. UNIDIR has begun a process of organizing regional capacity-building workshops on the Standards and the software tool, so as to establish a global network of organizations trained in the use of the software, which will serve as force multipliers in assisting a wider range of

interested users to integrate the Standards into their national small arms and light weapons control policies, programmes and practices.

International ammunition technical guidelines

37. Poorly stored ammunition stockpiles can become unstable and explode, posing significant safety risks. Since the late 1980s, 466 unintended explosions of munitions stockpiles have been recorded and have affected around 90 countries. Thousands of people have died and the livelihoods of entire communities have been disrupted. The number of such explosions is likely to increase if adequate preventive measures are not taken.

38. Unsecured or poorly monitored national ammunition stockpiles have also led to massive diversion into illicit markets, fuelling crime and conflict. In addition, ammunition pilfered from stockpiles is increasingly used to assemble improvised explosive devices.

39. In resolution 63/61, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 (A/63/182) and strongly encouraged States to implement its recommendations. The completion of the guidelines and the establishment of the UN Safe*r*Guard programme for the implementation of the guidelines were welcomed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/42.

40. During the reporting period, several regional training courses for national authorities on effective ammunition management utilizing the guidelines were organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs through the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. They included a training course for Latin American countries held in Asunción from 24 to 28 March 2014 and a training course for East and South African countries in Nairobi from 14 to 17 April 2014, organized in collaboration with the Mine Action Service.

41. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean have integrated the guidelines into the training curricula, manuals and courses that they provide to security sector officials of national Governments to strengthen their capacity to control small arms and light weapons and translated them into standard operating procedures for use by States. For example, through the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has supported States in the implementation of the guidelines through in-country technical assessments of ammunition and weapon storage sites in Paraguay and Peru, using an online risk reduction checklist developed to assist experts in assessing ammunition stockpiles.[3] The Office has also worked with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to build the capacity of the armed forces in ammunition stockpile management.

42. Training on the guidelines provided by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Mine Action Service and other partners in the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism has promoted national compliance with the guidelines, in particular in the area of stockpile management.

[3] See www.un.org/disarmament/un-saferguard.

43. The Mine Action Service has been involved in the operationalization of the guidelines in partnership with police and military institutions in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Libya, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan, to promote the highest standards possible for the benefit of local populations.

44. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs launched the UN Safer*Guard* quick response mechanism, which allows ammunitions experts to be deployed rapidly to assist States, upon request, in the urgent management of ammunition stockpiles, including in the aftermath of unintended explosions of ammunition. Utilizing the quick response mechanism, the Office began collaborating with the World Customs Organization to support the efforts of the latter to secure dangerous goods seized by border officials.

45. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized the inaugural meeting of the UN Safer*Guard* Board, on 29 and 30 April 2014, to oversee the implementation of the guidelines, working closely with the Mine Action Service, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Activities undertaken by United Nations programmes and agencies

46. In 2013, members of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism have continued to provide support to countries in conflict and those with high levels of armed violence. Those efforts have ensured that support to small arms control goes hand in hand with measures aimed at addressing the underlying causes of violence. Such support has included strengthening institutional capacities to respond to crime and violence (police, justice, line ministries and local government) and tackle the challenge of the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms. It has also focused on efforts to promote security at the community level and prevent conflict and violence through a particular focus on groups at risk.

47. The Police Division of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, together with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, launched a joint initiative on small arms and ammunition with the aim of building the capacity of the national police in Liberia, through UNMIL, to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Training based on the guidelines and the International Small Arms Control Standards was undertaken and a guide on the identification of weapons was developed for use by the United Nations and national law enforcement agencies and peacekeepers. A similar initiative is also being implemented in Mali.

48. In 2013, UNDP provided support for the control of small arms and light weapons and the reduction of armed violence in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan.

49. In Kenya, UNDP has supported the development of legislation on small arms and light weapons control. Furthermore, a community-level dialogue on the dangers of the illicit trade in small arms has contributed to the reduction of armed violence in targeted communities. In Nepal, further support was provided to roll out the national small arms strategy at district and community levels in 2014. UNDP has

also supported the Government of Nicaragua in its efforts to control small arms and light weapons, which has contributed to a significant reduction in homicides in the country (from 11 to 8.7 homicides per 100,000 persons).

50. The advisory and technical support of the Mine Action Service in weapons and ammunition destruction and storage has prevented their diversion to illicit markets, accidental explosions and their use in improvised explosive devices. During the reporting period, at the request of countries or as mandated by the Security Council, the Service destroyed surplus and unsecured weapons and ammunition in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan. In the case of the Central African Republic, the Service deployed its rapid response capacity, which identified and cleared 130 tons of unsecured conventional weapons and ammunition in five military camps in the middle of Bangui.

51. The Mine Action Service has also built or refurbished storage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali and South Sudan. In South Sudan, through quick-impact projects involving the National Police Service and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, weapons and ammunition were secured in Juba, Wau and Yei.

52. Implementing innovative training programmes on the International Small Arms Control Standards, the international ammunition technical guidelines and their best practices, the Mine Action Service has engaged national authorities and their military and police forces in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Mali, Sierra Leone and Somalia. The armed forces in Mali were trained in the design criteria for safe storage. In Libya, the Service supported efforts by the Government to draft new legislation for firearms security and construct temporary ammunition storage facilities in line with the guidelines and the Standards.

53. The mandates of United Nations missions often include the design and implementation of programmes for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and for the reform of the security sector in the host country. In this regard, with the joint support of UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, through the global focal points for police, justice, and corrections, the United Nations system has provided assistance to justice and security institutions so that they can effectively uphold the rule of law, and reduce and prevent the proliferation and use of illicit weapons.

Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures

54. The Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures is an informal, open and transparent forum to promote the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures. The Group has continued its efforts to support the implementation of the Programme of Action, including through information sharing on lessons learned from previous disarmament and peacebuilding projects (see General Assembly resolution 67/50, para. 4). In a follow-up to the second Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2012, the Group discussed how recent developments in small arms technology could contribute to the advancement of practical disarmament measures, as well as how relevant tools and technologies could be applied effectively to capacity-building projects in the conflict and post-conflict

context. The Group also continued to function as a mechanism for the effective matching of assistance needs with available resources in the field of small arms control assistance (see A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annex I, sect. II.D (h)).

B. Activities undertaken at the regional and subregional levels

Americas

55. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean provided assistance to States through over 50 activities concerning small arms throughout the region. That support has translated into the destruction of over 9,000 surplus, obsolete or confiscated small arms, along with almost four tons of ammunition for small arms and light weapons in total throughout the region and marked improvements in the management, safety and security of stockpiles. The Centre also trained over 400 security sector officials on a range of small arms control issues, including marking, stockpile management, destruction techniques and management of evidence related to crimes concerning small arms and light weapons.

56. The Centre has also assisted States in creating public policy dialogues on small arms control and in reforming and updating national legislation on small arms and light weapons vis-à-vis international instruments.

57. Women play a pivotal role in disarmament and arms control and, as such, the Centre conducted a training course for female security sector personnel in El Salvador in November 2013. In addition to strengthening their technical capacity in curbing the illicit traffic in small arms, the course also improved cooperation among the various law enforcement institutions responsible for enforcing small arms laws and regulations.

58. At the request of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the Mine Action Service trained the Haitian National Police in weapons management and control and initiated quick-impact projects to improve weapons security in the Presidential Security Unit and the Haitian National Police Academy.

Africa

59. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa provided technical assistance, capacity-building, research capacity and information to African Member States and regional organizations through more than 25 activities in 15 States.

60. The Centre provided training and capacity-building on small arms and light weapons control, stockpile management and destruction and the role of civil society in disarmament. In particular, the Centre supported the operations of national commissions on small arms and light weapons by providing assistance in drafting, reviewing and implementing national action plans for small arms and developing a manual of standard operating procedures for physical security and stockpile management, in line with the International Small Arms Control Standards and the international ammunition technical guidelines. The Centre further supported Member States through subregional workshops on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and on the guidelines. In order to address the link between security sector reform activities and small arms control, the Centre trained

security sector officials on international standards governing the proportional use of firearms.

61. The Centre worked in close partnership with United Nations agencies, the African Union, subregional organizations and non-governmental organizations in promoting the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Asia and the Pacific

62. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific continued to support and contribute to national, regional and international discussions on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

63. The Centre organized a national workshop to enhance the capacity of the relevant national authorities in Myanmar to implement the Programme of Action.

Other regions

64. With the financial assistance of the European Union, the South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons is implementing regional disarmament and arms control activities in South-Eastern Europe. All the activities that have been implemented are designed to contribute directly to capacity-building in the beneficiary States and territories in practical disarmament measures; provide practical and technical assistance to States/territories for curbing the illicit traffic and trade in small arms and light weapons; support efforts in collecting and destroying illicit and surplus small arms and light weapons; and help empower the relevant institutions and organizations of the region in carrying out coherent and coordinated efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

65. The countries of the western Balkans continue to receive assistance from the Clearinghouse for enhanced transparency and accountability in the area of arms exports control.

66. The countries of the western Balkans have demonstrated and are demonstrating their willingness and capability to report on their arms trade to national, regional and global mechanisms related to arms control through maintaining records of and control over all national export, import and transit licences; improving their national control systems; and introducing subregional control mechanisms based on coordination and information exchange.

III. Observations and conclusions

67. The resolve of the international community to address the perennial issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is unwavering. The measures that States have identified during the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action attest to the existing political will and determination at the international level to address this issue, which continues to wreak havoc across the globe and hamper efforts to promote socioeconomic development.

68. States are increasingly aware that new technologies could be useful in their ongoing efforts to address the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons and are committed to devising the appropriate strategies in this regard.

69. The imminent entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty augurs well for the fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Once implemented, the Treaty will strengthen and complement the Programme of Action in the area of export assessment, preventing diversion and countering illicit arms brokering.

70. Coordination within the wider United Nations system is essential for continued support to national and regional efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action. Furthermore, it will also be important to ensure that relevant activities are properly resourced in a timely manner. Lessons learned from United Nations interventions in peacekeeping operations and special political missions demonstrate greater impact and cost-effectiveness when resources and priorities are incorporated early into planning processes. Lastly, further strengthening of partnerships with international and regional organizations and with civil society organizations will be critical in this endeavour.

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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa from July 2013 to June 2014.

During the reporting period, the Centre continued to assist, upon request, Member States and intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote disarmament, peace and security.

In the light of the continued instability and conflict in some parts of Africa, in particular in Central Africa and the Sahel, compounded by the threat to peace, security and socioeconomic development posed by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, the Centre focused its work on providing assistance to States to combat illicit small arms and light weapons and to reform their security sectors. The Centre supported Member States in their implementation of international, regional and subregional instruments aimed at combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and provided training to civilian authorities, including national commissions on small arms and light weapons and defence and security forces. The Centre also partnered with civil society organizations to promote the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Centre provided support to Member States in meeting their obligations regarding the implementation of international treaties and other instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including bacteriological (biological) and toxin

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weapons, and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Such support was aimed at strengthening the capacity of national authorities in the region.

The Centre continued to provide substantive and technical support relating to disarmament issues to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in particular at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh ministerial meetings, held in Kigali in August 2013 and in N'Djamena in December 2013.

The Centre relies solely on voluntary contributions to implement its programmes. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operations and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/61, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the tangible achievements and impact of the assistance provided by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and welcomed its contribution to disarmament, peace and security on the continent.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. It covers the activities of the Centre for the period from July 2013 to June 2014. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre is contained in the annex.

II. Functioning and mandate of the Centre

3. The Centre was established in 1986 in Lomé, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. The Centre functions on the basis of existing resources within the Secretariat and of voluntary contributions that Member States and other donors may offer. It provides assistance, upon request, to Member States, the African Union and other relevant intergovernmental organizations in the promotion of disarmament, peace and security in Africa.

III. Activities of the Centre

4. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to implement its programme of work in the following main areas: peace and security; conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons; weapons of mass destruction; information and outreach; and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and other entities.

5. The Centre also worked in partnership with academic and research institutions and civil society organizations in the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities linked to disarmament, peace and security. To assist African States in tackling key challenges in the areas of security and disarmament, the Centre continued to place emphasis on activities linked to the prevention of the illicit traffic in and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons and to the reform of defence and security forces with the goals of reducing armed conflict and armed violence and developing effective and accountable security institutions. The Centre supported African Member States and intergovernmental organizations in those areas through capacity-building and training, technical assistance, research and outreach activities.

6. The Centre assisted African States in their efforts to fully implement the key requirements of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), including preparing the initial national report. It also helped to prepare voluntary national implementation and capacity-building plans to enhance the implementation of related instruments in the region.

A. Peace and security

7. The Centre, upon request, carried out activities to assist Member States, including States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in reforming their defence and security forces.

8. In response to the security situation in the Sahel, the Centre developed several projects contributing to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The projects take into account the discussions at technical-level consultative meetings on the security situation in the Sahel and the Maghreb held in Berlin, Dakar and Wilton Park, Steyning, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. As part of its contribution to implementing the integrated strategy, the Centre worked closely with the national commissions on small arms and light weapons of Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger on aspects relating to conventional arms and ammunition management in those countries. Activities were conducted in close coordination with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

9. The Centre continued to provide substantive support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, informing its members of disarmament developments in the subregion and about the cooperation between the United Nations and the Committee in the context of peace and security in Central Africa. The Centre focused on promoting the national-level implementation of relevant international and regional disarmament instruments and on identifying the challenges and opportunities for their implementation in the subregion. It provided support to the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh ministerial meetings of the Committee, held in Kigali in August 2013 and in N'Djamena in December 2013. It presented updated reports on the disarmament situation in the subregion and on the progress in the implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention) and provided substantive input to the regional discussions in preparation for the draft agenda of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Responding to a request, the Centre supported the members of the Committee in sharing national experiences on the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention and the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. It also initiated a project on the harmonization of national legislation with those instruments. The Centre also provided substantive support to the Committee's discussion on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

10. In addition, the Centre provided expertise on arms and ammunition stockpile management to experts from the Committee at a meeting on the implementation of the road map and development of an integrated counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of small arms strategy in Central Africa, which was organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, with the support of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, from 22 to 24 April 2014 in Bujumbura. The Centre promoted the application of the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, aimed at

assisting Member States to fulfil their commitments under the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

11. The Centre supported efforts to improve the security situation and respect for human rights in the lead-up to the presidential and national elections held in October and December 2013 in Madagascar. Cooperating with the Malagasy defence and security forces, the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Transition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme in Madagascar, the Centre focused on the linkage between security sector reform and small arms and light weapons control. It promoted international standards governing proportional use of firearms during electoral periods and shared its guide to maintaining law and order during electoral periods for security forces and services with the Malagasy security services.

B. Small arms and light weapons

12. The Centre supported African Member States in implementing international and regional instruments to combat the illicit trade and uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons by assisting in the development of regional and national action plans on small arms and strengthening the capacity of Governments and civil society organizations in the field of small arms control.

13. As an observer in the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, the Centre continued to work closely with the African Union Commission and provided substantive support to the Steering Committee in the implementation of the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the African Union Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Programme. It also supported the implementation of the relevant subregional instruments to combat illegal small arms and light weapons. The Centre provided substantive support to the Steering Committee with regard to the African Union-European Union project to fight against illicit firearms in Africa in the implementation of the second phase of the project.

14. Under a United Nations-European Union joint assistance programme on small arms implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the Centre supported the organization of subregional events to assist Member States in critical components of practical arms regulation measures. They included a workshop for States members of the Economic Community of West African States on implementing the International Tracing Instrument, held in Lomé in March 2014, advanced training for Southern and East African troop-contributing countries on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines within the framework of the Safer*Guard* knowledge resource management programme, held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in April 2014, and national follow-up training on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, held in Monrovia in May 2014 and also attended by personnel from the United Nations Mission in Liberia. The workshop on the International Tracing Instrument provided a platform for the authorities of West African States in charge of national tracing programmes to share their experiences and challenges with colleagues from other countries and United

Nations and international experts. As a confidence-building measure, representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana shared their national experiences in implementing the Instrument, such as national marking initiatives and with regard to stockpile management and ballistic services. The advanced training on the Guidelines provided participants with expert instruction in conventional ammunition stockpile management, focusing on the use of the Guidelines in field activities. Representatives of the United Nations Mine Action Service, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the Mines Advisory Group, a non-governmental organization, also participated and shared their experiences.

15. To support the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to control arms, the Centre, with financial support from the Government of Japan, developed a guidance manual on national standard operating procedures for physical security and stockpile management. The procedures were developed in line with the International Small Arms Control Standards, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, regional and subregional instruments and national legislation. In addition, the Centre hosted a training-of-trainers workshop in Grand-Bassam for 25 officials of the Ivorian national police, gendarmerie, armed forces and customs, water and forestry offices, using the guidance. Furthermore, the Centre developed training materials on legal and normative frameworks of arms control, marking, registration and tracing of small arms and light weapons, procedures for the storage of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, and destruction of surplus and obsolete small arms and light weapons.

16. The Centre continued to support the National Commission on Small Arms of Togo in developing and implementing a national action plan on small arms and light weapons control for the period 2012-2016. In cooperation with the National Commission, the Centre developed a programme to mark civilian-owned weapons, raise the awareness of the population regarding the importance of marking and advocate the marking of State-owned weapons in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument. This followed a survey by the National Commission of small arms ownership and the development of a national licensing programme.

17. To contribute to improving the security situation in Mali and the Sahel, the Centre, with financial support from Germany, assisted in making the National Commission for Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons of Mali operational once again. In addition, the Centre provided technical support to the National Commission in its efforts to develop a new five-year national action plan for the control of small arms. The plan was adopted in February 2014 during a national validation workshop. To implement it, the Centre will continue to assist Mali with the financial support of Germany and in close cooperation with MINUSMA, the United Nations Mine Action Service and international non-governmental organizations operating in the country. Mali also benefited from support through a seminar on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines organized for the national authorities and MINUSMA personnel.

18. The Centre supported Burkina Faso, the Niger and Sierra Leone through the procurement of weapon-marking machines and the organization of national workshops on international best practice standards on marking and initial training.

C. Other conventional arms issues

19. Following the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013, the Centre advocated the signature and ratification of the Treaty by African Member States. The Centre, together with civil society organizations, parliamentarians and other partners, focused on raising awareness of the Treaty among States and promoting its ratification by national parliaments. The Centre cooperated with the West African Action Network on Small Arms by providing technical input to training-of-trainers workshops for West African civil society organizations engaged in national Treaty advocacy activities. The events were held in Accra, Dakar and Lomé early in 2014. In addition, the Centre continued its cooperation with Parliamentarians for Global Action on advocacy in relation to the Treaty and provided substantive support to a joint session of the Pan-African Parliament and Parliamentarians for Global Action members in Johannesburg, South Africa, in October 2013. Jointly with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Centre also provided substantive support to the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons in holding a South-South parliamentary exchange and cooperation forum in Lomé in May 2014.

D. Weapons of mass destruction

20. The Centre supported Member States in their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. It undertook a project entitled "Enhancing the participation of African Member States in Security Council resolution 1540 (2004): towards the tenth anniversary" with the aim of strengthening the capacity of African States to implement the resolution, focusing on preparing initial national reports. The project received financial support from Norway and the United States of America. The Centre organized three regional workshops, for French-speaking, English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries, to facilitate the preparation and submission of initial reports pursuant to the resolution.

21. The workshop for French-speaking Member States was hosted by the Government of Gabon in Libreville in March 2014 and attended by representatives of the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mali and Mauritania. The Government of South Africa, in cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Institute for Security Studies, hosted the workshop for English-speaking States in Pretoria in April 2014, with the participation of representatives of the Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The workshop for Portuguese-speaking Member States was held in Lomé in June 2014, with the participation of representatives of Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe.

22. Back to back with the workshops, the Governments of Gabon and Togo invited the experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to country-specific round tables on the resolution in Libreville and Lomé. Government officials from various ministries and representatives of the security forces of the two countries discussed specific implementation activities. Gabon announced the development of a voluntary national implementation action plan, mapping out the country's priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of the resolution. Togo announced the establishment of an interdepartmental committee for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

23. As a part of the wider assistance programme to support the universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, funded by the European Union, the Centre, in cooperation with the Implementation Support Unit, organized two national workshops on the implementation of the Convention, which were held in Benin and Burkina Faso in December 2013. The workshops, which brought together national stakeholders, national implementing authorities and regional and international experts, were aimed at strengthening national capacity to implement obligations under the Convention, notably regarding confidence-building measures, legislative and administrative measures, awareness-raising and the creation of a code of conduct on biosafety and biosecurity standards.

E. Information and outreach

24. The Centre developed a new communications strategy aimed at improving its ability to inform and interact with Member States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations and the public at large regarding its work and priorities. As part of those efforts, it organized meetings with international media in various countries to promote support for its activities. Such events were held in Bamako in February 2014, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Libreville in March 2014 and Pretoria in April 2014.

25. The Centre's electronic newsletter, "UNREC Focus", reached more than 5,000 global subscribers during the reporting period. New interactive features and information on the Centre's expertise and current projects were added to the website, available in English and French. From July 2013 to June 2014, it recorded more than 58,000 hits.

26. The Centre was able to expand its outreach activities in cooperation with and thanks to the in-kind support of regional and international non-governmental organizations, such as the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Institute for Security Studies, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the West African Network on Small Arms.

27. The Centre hosted two briefings for the diplomatic corps based in Lomé. The first, in June 2013, was a briefing on the Arms Trade Treaty and how the Centre could assist Member States in moving forward for the Treaty's swift ratification by African States. The second, in June 2014, provided an update on the discussions in the First Committee and on the Centre's current and planned activities.

IV. Operational situation of the Centre

A. Financial situation

28. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the Centre were received in the amount of $595,289. Information on the status of the trust fund from July 2013 to June 2014 is contained in the annex.

29. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Togo and the United States, in addition to the European Union, for their financial and in-kind contributions. The Secretary-General would also like to thank the Institute for Security Studies, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the National Commission on Small Arms of Côte d'Ivoire.

B. Staffing

30. The regular budget of the United Nations currently funds the posts of the Director, a Political Affairs Officer and two national support staff. Project staff continue to be funded through voluntary contributions. During the reporting period, the Centre intensified its cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers programme. The Secretary-General wishes to thank the Government of Finland for supporting the cost of an international United Nations Volunteer and the Government of the United States for supporting the cost of a national United Nations Volunteer through the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Secretary-General also would like to thank the Government of Germany for having launched the recruitment process for a junior professional officer, who is expected to join the Centre towards the end of 2014.

C. Capacity-building for United Nations staff members

31. The Centre took the opportunity of the presence of international experts to train its staff in Lomé and interested staff from United Nations departments, offices and agencies from the region on the International Tracing Instrument and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. Senior officials from the National Commission on Small Arms and the Ministry of Defence of Togo also participated in the training on the Guidelines.

V. Conclusion

32. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to support Member States in disarmament, security and peace initiatives and collaborated with several partners with a view to identifying synergies in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation objectives in Africa.

33. The Centre assisted Member States, upon request, in reforming their defence and security forces, in combating the illicit trade and uncontrolled spread of small

arms and light weapons and in implementing various weapons of mass destruction, disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. Furthermore, the Centre engaged in activities to promote the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and conducted outreach initiatives to raise awareness of the significance of disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

34. The considerable increase in requests for assistance from Member States and intergovernmental organizations illustrates the relevance of the Centre's work in the field of arms regulation, disarmament, non-proliferation and security in the region. Building on its expertise in the respective areas and past experience, the Centre will continue to develop and implement new projects and activities that meet the specific needs of Member States in the region.

35. In carrying out its programme and activities, the Centre worked with an increasing number of partners and strengthened its continental role by creating networks and partnerships at the pan-African and African subregional levels. The Centre also benefited from the effective partnerships that it has established and maintains with United Nations agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations, in addition to non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and civil society organizations. The ability of the Centre to coordinate with a wide range of actors and to draw on lessons learned has proved beneficial to its institutional growth.

36. The Centre stands ready to continue to support Member States in addressing disarmament and non-proliferation challenges in Africa. To enable the Centre to continue its operation and to fulfil its mandate effectively and comprehensively, the Secretary-General encourages all Member States and other donors to provide the Centre with the necessary financial contributions and in-kind support.

Annex

Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2013

(United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, as at 1 January 2013		**206 832**
Income		
Voluntary contributions		595 289[a]
Funds received under inter-organization arrangements	72 995[b]	
Interest income		4 633
Other/miscellaneous income		1 269[c]
Prior-year adjustment		416 539[d]
Total income and prior-year adjustment		**674 186**
Expenditure		368 023
Programme support cost		47 545
Total expenditure		**415 568**
Reserves and fund balances, as at 31 December 2013		**881 989[e]**

[a] During the reporting period, contributions totalling $595,289 were received from Australia ($50,000), Germany ($414,354), New Zealand ($19,975), the Netherlands ($80,000) and Togo ($30,960).

[b] Funds received from the United Nations Development Programme.

[c] Represents refund of expenditure from the prior period.

[d] Adjustment for the reduction of 2012 expenditure.

[e] Consists of reserves and fund balance as at 1 January 2013, plus income received in 2013, less expenditure incurred during the year, plus adjustment for the reduction of 2012 expenditure.

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United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme will continue to publish print and electronic versions of the two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, available on its website. The disarmament website (www.un.org/disarmament) has grown exponentially in content and is being used more and more by Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public alike to access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. Websites for specific meetings and conferences are being further developed. The Office will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with coalitions of non-governmental organizations that spearhead such participation. The present report also gives details of the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/67, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. In accordance with the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/159), the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has continued her advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society and continued to increase her interaction with the media, think-tank organizations, academia and civil society organizations that play a vital role in building and activating public opinion in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

4. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, priority was accorded to the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Geneva, 22 April-3 May 2013 and New York, 28 April-9 May 2014), and the eighth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (New York, 27 September 2013), convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, entailing an increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, other international and civil society organizations, the media and the general public.

5. In the field of conventional weapons, priority was accorded to the sessions of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (New York, 18-28 March 2013) and the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 16-20 June 2014). Again, the Office for Disarmament Affairs was required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.

6. The importance of the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to grow, as evidenced by significantly increased traffic and time spent by visitors on the site. Dedicated websites were designed for major disarmament-related conferences, including the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference and the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty.

7. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 67/47, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and to submit it to the Assembly at its

sixty-ninth session (A/69/113). That report should be read in conjunction with the present one.

8. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Office's three regional centres for peace and disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres[1] provide detailed information about their activities.

9. The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme continues to be the Office's largest annual training programme. A separate report on its activities over the past two years has been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/168).

10. In accordance with the standing request, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research continues to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis. Accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the past two years are contained in separate reports (A/68/182 and A/69/176).

11. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status of the Fund as at 31 December 2013 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received from States and private donors, as listed in the annex to the present report.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

12. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The English version of the *Yearbook* is issued in a print run of 500 copies (a reduction from the print run of over 4,000 in 2010, in line with the change plan and the "Greening the United Nations" initiative). In addition, the United Nations bookshops sell several hundred copies of each edition to subscribers and non-subscribers. An additional copy is distributed to each delegation participating in the work of the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament. The *Yearbook* is also produced in electronic format easily accessible on the Office website. The e-Yearbook is produced in PDF format and features full-text search and navigation mechanisms. Electronic versions of the *Yearbook* have been available since 2002.

[1] Reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/68/134), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/68/112), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/68/114) were submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. The three reports of the Secretary-General on the respective regional centres have been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/136, A/69/127 and A/69/133).

13. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from individuals, panels and seminars sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and is disseminated free of charge and posted on the Office website. The following have been issued in the period under review:

- Occasional Paper No. 22, December 2012, entitled *Options for the Further Strengthening of the NPT's Review Process by 2015*.[2] Parties participating in the 2010 Review Conference decided to defer its consideration of further strengthening of the review process of the Treaty to the next review cycle. This paper examines the various proposals that have been put forward and that could incrementally improve accountability and efficiency and provide greater continuity and substantial savings.

- Occasional Paper No. 23, March 2013, entitled *The Impact of Poorly Regulated Arms Transfers on the Work of the United Nations*.[3] The paper aims to develop a coherent approach to support the efforts of the international community to improve the regulation of international transfers of conventional arms. It records the advocacy of the Organization over the past years of a robust and comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty that covers the full array of conventional weapons and ammunition, and it includes provisions that arms not be transferred where there is a clear risk that they will be used to commit violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law or seriously undermine development.

- Occasional Paper No. 24, December 2013, entitled *Contrasting Perspectives on Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Europe: Understanding the Current Debates*.[4] The paper presents an overview of a number of relevant discussion points that need to be addressed in the complex picture of tactical nuclear weapons disarmament. These include the theoretical and practical arguments for tactical nuclear weapons disarmament and the underpinning political and military logic.

- Occasional Paper No. 25, December 2013, entitled *The Gun-Free Zone — A Tool to Prevent and Reduce Armed Violence*.[5] In an attempt to prevent and reduce armed violence, a number of national and regional Governments and local communities have established gun-free zones. It aims to bring together information and experiences from practitioners and policymakers and analyse the impact of gun-free zones in order to determine when and where gun-free zones can be a valuable measure to prevent and reduce armed violence.

14. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to produce what was previously a quarterly e-publication (Office for Disarmament Affairs Update), which highlights recent events and activities of the Office and other disarmament forums providing links to fuller material and documents available on the Office and related websites. The individual articles in the Update are now published on the website when they become available, closer to real-time, but are still also collated in a quarterly mode.

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[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IX.3.
[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IX.5.
[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.4.
[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.6.

15. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to publish its series *Civil Society and Disarmament*. In November 2012, it published *Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays*. This publication features six essays on disarmament topics by civil society actors.

16. A second edition in this *Civil Society* series was published in December 2013, entitled *NGO Presentations to the Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations*.[6] This publication contains the statements by representatives of non-governmental organizations that were delivered in May 2013 during the informal thematic discussions at the meeting, held in Geneva, of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

17. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to publish its study series, a non-sales publication produced in small quantities, which highlights studies undertaken by groups of governmental experts. In December 2013, study series No. 34, entitled *Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities*,[7] was published. This publication contains the study on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, which held sessions in 2012 and 2013. Additional material related to the publication of the report is also included, such as General Assembly resolutions, views of Member States and expert papers. The study is available in print in English and electronically.

18. The publication *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*,[8] first published only in English, aims to inform, educate and generate public support for and understanding of the importance of multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. It was translated into the other five languages of the United Nations and was e-published in October 2013. The Office has been seeking partners to translate the Guide into as many languages as possible and to date has a commitment from the University of Tokyo to produce a version in Japanese. Other offers to translate the booklet in languages other than the official languages would be welcome.

19. In June 2013, a new report *Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions* was published and widely disseminated. This report illustrates how the Office for Disarmament Affairs has been able to achieve concrete results through partnerships with its donors, and how essential such support is in attaining important disarmament goals. An updated edition is being prepared.

20. A new feature on the Office for Disarmament Affairs website is a series of short two-page fact sheets on various topics for which the Office is responsible. There are some 36 of these concise fact sheets, which are updated on a quarterly basis.

21. In April 2014, in conjunction with the Department of Public Information, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a new book, *Action for Disarmament:*

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.5.
[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.IX.3.
[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.IX.4.

10 Things You Can Do!.[9] It shows youth actionable steps they can take to personally lead the call for disarmament. The book presents a variety of resources for the reader to learn about history and modern uses of weapons: guns, bombs, nuclear and biological weapons. The reader is encouraged to use that knowledge to foster a dialogue with peers, the media and politicians. Suggestions are given for points of discussion, as well as methods to tailor them to be concise and have impact. The action-driven format of the book makes it both an excellent primer on disarmament and on civic engagement.

22. While printed materials are still an important medium of communication, as access to the Internet and electronic media increases across the globe, the Office for Disarmament Affairs is making all of its publications available in electronic and downloadable formats. Back volumes of the *Disarmament Yearbook* were made available as scanned PDF files in July 2013. In addition, the publications section of the website was redesigned in October 2013. The new and improved website features: a slide show of new and noteworthy publications; a dedicated search function that looks through the publications section of the website, including the office for disarmament affairs Documents Library, the Office for Disarmament Affairs Update and the fact sheets; and more appealing web pages for each publication, with an overview of the publication content and links to the downloadable PDFs in all available languages.

B. Website

23. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain and improve both the substantive content and technical delivery of its website with the goal of reaching a broader audience that includes both the general public and specialists in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

24. The overall design of the website remains oriented towards specific issues that represent the Office priorities. Its front page is regularly updated with recent news of interest to the disarmament community and with educational features that explain disarmament issues in layperson's terms to the general public. Links are provided to pages archiving disarmament-related United Nations press releases; statements by the Secretary-General and other senior officials, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs; publications, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament and relevant background documentation. Documentation relating to these conferences that exists in all the official languages is posted on the website. A new feature on the home page is the "Spotlight", which gives users of the website up-to-date information about events, conferences, speeches and other activities. It is updated regularly.

25. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continuously monitors the performance of its website. Statistics on the number of page views and visitors, traffic patterns and search query terms are recorded in real time. Regular monitoring provides data on the information being sought by the visitors to and users of the site.

26. The Office website traffic continued to grow as the traffic and time spent by visitors on the site increased significantly. There was an increase of more than 57 per cent in the number of new visitors to the website. The number of visits to the

[9] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IX.6.

site more than doubled since the previous year, averaging more than 64,000 visits per month. Page views doubled, from 60,000 to 80,000 monthly in 2012, to 90,000 to 200,000 monthly in 2013. The greatest traffic to the website was at the time of the publication of the interim report into allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, when it reached 30,000 page views in one single day.

27. During 2013, three new websites were created for the United Nations SaferGuard project (a toolkit to support the implementation of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines), the Arms Trade Treaty and the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference. The top users of the website, measured by time spent, are Government agencies (mainly ministries for foreign affairs), educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. In addition to the front page, the two most visited sections of the site are the pages reflecting efforts to establish an Arms Trade Treaty and those related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

28. A major objective of the Office for Disarmament Affairs is to have the home page content of its website and all second-tier pages available in all the official languages, a major challenge given the lack of financial resources. Only when documentation exists in all the official languages is the Office able to post it quickly and easily.

C. Exhibitions

29. Exhibitions play an important role in promoting advocacy and providing information on a conference or other topics through the promotion of governmental and non-governmental positions. However, work involving the renovation of United Nations Headquarters (the capital master plan) has meant that the permanent disarmament exhibit at Headquarters has been temporarily dismantled. A limited number of artefacts and posters have been retained and moved to a new location in the Conference Building and a large display on military expenditure is now housed in the temporary visitors centre. The latter, which shows the relative size of global military expenditure versus spending on development (see http://www.un.org/disarmament/over-armed), was launched in late 2012 and was originally housed in the visitors lobby of Headquarters. Discussions with the Department of Public Information are ongoing about the installation of a new disarmament exhibit in the renovated General Assembly building.

D. Events

30. In the period under review there was significant media and civil society attention to a number of events requiring information and outreach support in New York, such as the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, the Arms Trade Treaty signing ceremony, and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament.

31. As part of its outreach efforts, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has also continued to organize and host a range of meetings, seminars and events. Following are some examples:

- The sixty-seventh anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, on 6 August 2012, was marked by the launch of a new website (www.hiroshima-nagasaki.com), which makes available new testimonies of atomic bomb survivors living in the Americas. The new website is a collaboration between the Office for Disarmament Affairs and Japanese artist and director Shinpei Takeda, who has travelled the Americas and collected more than 60 interviews with survivors who emigrated there from Japan in the years following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

- On 23 October 2012, at an award ceremony, the Secretary-General congratulated the 12 young artists who won the Art for Peace Contest 2012, which asked participants to depict their vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. More than 6,600 young people from 92 countries took part in the contest, which was administered online and judged by a panel of 140 jurors, mainly art and education specialists, who evaluated each work of art based on its creativity, composition, theme and technique.

- The scholar and author, Ward Wilson, came to the United Nations on 20 February 2013, to launch his new book, *Five Myths about Nuclear Weapons*, and lay out his arguments to an audience of diplomats, United Nations staff, scholars and representatives of NGOs that nuclear weapons are costly and dangerous, and as weapons, they serve practically no purpose.

- On 9 April 2013, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with the Global Action to Prevent War, launched the publication, *Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays*, with a panel discussion at the United Nations.

- The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute North America, with the sponsorship of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, presented a lunch-time panel discussion on the theme "Military expenditures: trends and challenges" on 15 April 2013. The panel discussion explored how regional political developments are reflected in countries' military spending and budget priorities, and the implications of these trends.

- On 8 May 2013, two atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima met with United Nations tour guides and interns in New York to share their testimonies of the horrors they experienced in Japan in August 1945. The meeting provided a rare opportunity for the participants to hear first-hand accounts on the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons. This initiative was part of the commitment of the Secretary-General to help preserve and disseminate the testimonies of the survivors to ensure that their stories are available for generations to come.

- In association with the World Future Council and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized an event on 23 October to announce the winners of the Future Policy Award 2013, for disarmament policies that contribute most effectively to the achievement of peace,

sustainable development and security. A gala event was held at United Nations Headquarters to honour the winners: the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (1967); the Argentine National Programme for the Voluntary Surrender of Firearms (2006); and the New Zealand Nuclear-Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act (1987).

- On 15 April 2014, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information held an event to launch a new book, *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!*. Written for high school and early college students, it offers practical steps to help young people mobilize, act and promote the United Nations disarmament ideals throughout their schools, communities and beyond. To ensure the widest possible dissemination of the publication, the University of Tokyo and the Hope to the Future Foundation in the Republic of Korea have agreed to translate the book into Japanese and Korean, respectively.
- More information on these and many other events held in the period under review is available as part of the Office for Disarmament Affairs Update series at http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/.

E. Media

32. Throughout the reporting period, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her staff participated in interviews with television, radio and print outlets. In 2013 media interest in disarmament was particularly focussed on the investigation of the Secretary-General into the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and its decision to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and the subsequent work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-United Nations Joint Mission overseeing the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

F. Education

33. In November in both 2012 and 2013, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Hibakusha Stories, in collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and Peace Boat, organized at United Nations Headquarters a workshop on nuclear disarmament for teachers at New York City public schools. The educators participated in the workshop as part of their continuing education activities on Staff Development Day. Teachers specializing in social studies, global studies, government and history from a number of New York City high schools participated. The workshops included a substantive session that explored the subjects of nuclear disarmament and the role of the United Nations, the dawn of the nuclear age and the Manhattan Project, and the human dimensions of the Second World War and the atomic bombings of Japan.

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

34. With support from the Government of Japan and the host city Shinzuoka, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, organized the twenty-fourth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Shinzuoka, Japan, from 30 January to 1 February 2013. The Conference, with the overall theme "Creating a peaceful and safe future: pressing issues and potential solutions", addressed a number of important issues, including humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones, current situations and challenges to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, nuclear safety and security, small arms and light weapons control, the role of civil society in promoting disarmament, and disarmament and non-proliferation education. Representatives of States, local governments, the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations, academic institutions, NGOs and other civil society organizations, the media, high school and university students attended the Conference.

35. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the Republic of Korea, has continued the Jeju Process by organizing two more Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conferences on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. These conferences are well known for providing an informal setting for frank and open discussions of current critical issues of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and security by bringing together stakeholders from different sectors of the disarmament and non-proliferation community, including government, intergovernmental organizations, academia and civil society.

36. The eleventh Joint Conference was held in December 2012 on the theme "Disarmament and arms trade control in Asia and beyond: conventional weapons and missiles". Discussions centred on international conventions with a focus on the Arms Trade Treaty; missile issues and control regimes; illicit trade: illicit brokering; proliferation financing; and cases of conventional weapons disarmament and their implications. The twelfth Joint Conference was held in November 2013, on the theme "Non-proliferation regime in the twenty-first century: challenges and the way forward", which focused on a range of non-proliferation issues, with a special emphasis on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

37. The 2012 and 2013 sessions of the First Committee of the General Assembly attracted an unusually large number of side events organized separately and jointly by permanent missions to the United Nations, NGOs, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Additional information on many of these events is available on the Office for Disarmament Affairs website.

B. Briefings

38. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the DPI and in response to requests received directly from individual institutions, staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs undertook briefing engagements, an average of 40 per year

during the reporting period. These focused on education and training activities involving some 3,600 participants, including: (a) student visitors within the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Association members from various countries; (c) foreign ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; and (e) visiting members of NGOs.

39. Staff members also participated in numerous panels and events on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research or university-related institutes or think tanks.

C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament

40. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for supporting the activities of the Messengers of Peace, in cooperation with the relevant substantive offices, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs. During the period under review, Michael Douglas, whose special area of focus as Messenger of Peace is disarmament, made a number of contributions to supporting disarmament efforts.

41. Mr. Douglas helped organize the filming of, and the celebrity participation for, a public service announcement for the DPI released in June 2013, calling on world leaders to reduce nuclear weapon stockpiles. The public service announcement was produced for an awareness campaign initiated by Global Zero, a non-profit organization that advocates for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2030.

42. Mr. Douglas was recognized for his efforts by being given the 2013 Global Citizen of the Year Award by the United Nations Correspondents Association at a gala dinner in New York on 18 December 2013. On 14 January 2014, Mr. Douglas was given the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Peace Award from the United States Fund for UNICEF. The Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award is given annually to an entertainment industry individual in recognition of his or her visionary and transformative advocacy on behalf of children and women worldwide.

43. In April 2014, Mr. Douglas participated and spoke at the book launch of *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!* — a book to encourage youth to become involved in disarmament. Mr. Douglas implored an auditorium that included local New York high school and university students to speak out in favour of disarmament and peace. Mr. Douglas joined the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs to encourage students to find their voice with help from the book. "These young people are going to be part of our governments before we know it," noted Mr. Douglas. He also told the audience, "You guys hold an enormous power. You have a power to make changes. And to make this world a better place to live in." While at Headquarters for the book-launch event, he taped two short sequences to help promote the sale of the book and two messages in support of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty and for the June 2014 Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

44. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to facilitate NGO participation (accreditation and registration) at various disarmament-related conferences, and to coordinate NGO side events and exhibits, as well as their presentations, in various disarmament meetings. The Office also provides sponsorship to enable NGOs to hold events during the First Committee session and promotes NGO activities on the Office website. The Office holds frequent meetings with representatives of NGOs at the level of the High Representative and at the working level to discuss their programmes and examine ways to collaborate.

45. For the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain close contact with two major NGO coalitions, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field and the International Action Network on Small Arms in connection with small arms and light weapons.

46. A total of 362 representatives from 53 NGOs participated in the 2013 second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference in 2013, with slightly increased numbers of NGOs participating in the third session in 2014. A total of 578 representatives from 77 NGOs participated in the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held in 2012 and a similar number of NGOs participated in the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013. In the area of small arms, 186 representatives from 30 NGOs participated in the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in August/September 2012. Some 247 representatives from 47 NGOs registered for the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2014. A new system of online advance registration for NGOs for meetings is now available and has facilitated registration for participants.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

47. The Department of Public Information continued to make sustained and comprehensive efforts to help raise public awareness and understanding of the objectives and the work of the United Nations in the area of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related fields, including by promoting and covering the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances.

A. Internet, press coverage, television and radio

48. During the reporting period, the DPI continued to focus on disarmament as one of its priority issues in its multilingual radio, television, print, online and photo outlets. The United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (2-27 July 2012) and the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (18-28 March 2013) were widely covered by the entire team of United Nations Television, United Nations Webcast, United Nations Radio and the United Nations News Centre. In the

lead-up to the March 2013 conference, an op-ed piece by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs was placed in the Huffington Post.

49. The high-level General Assembly plenary meeting on nuclear disarmament (September 2013), the work of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, the work of the Conference on Disarmament and Disarmament Commission sessions were also widely covered by United Nations Television, United Nations Webcast, United Nations Radio and the United Nations News Centre.

50. The Department's Web Services Section created a web page for the nuclear disarmament high-level plenary meeting, available in all six official United Nations languages (http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/nucleardisarmament/), and continued to maintain the website of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in all six official languages, in partnership with the Committee. During the reporting period, a total of about 2,100 website updates were implemented in all six official languages.

51. United Nations Radio carried out interviews with disarmament officials across the full spectrum of disarmament-related issues and ran stories on the First Committee meetings, the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, Disarmament Commission meetings and the annual observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests and the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

52. During the reporting period, the United Nations News Centre posted more than 350 stories on disarmament-related issues and carried out a Newsmaker interview with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, which was featured online in January 2014. Several interviews were carried out in connection with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-United Nations Joint Mission for the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, including with the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission.

53. United Nations Television produced or co-produced a number of related pieces, such as a public service announcement on small weapons for the Office for Disarmament Affairs, a television feature on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), a Secretary-General video message celebrating the 10-year anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004), and a television feature on Robinson Crusoe island in Chile on reconstructing a nuclear testing monitoring station destroyed after a tsunami.

54. More than 80 news stories on disarmament and non-proliferation, ranging from updates on the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran to a feature from South Sudan on small arms tracking, were prepared and distributed to global broadcasters through UNifeed. United Nations Web television provided live coverage of the high-level meetings and uploaded 110 videos, which were then embedded in United Nations News Centre and United Nations Radio stories.

55. United Nations Photo covered the full range of meetings and events at Headquarters, with more than 321 photos on United Nations activities on disarmament and non-proliferation accessioned, captioned and posted on the United Nations website. In addition, the Multimedia Resources Unit of the Department of Public Information continued to maintain an ongoing spotlight gallery — "Disarmament and the UN" — highlighting selected photos from its collection. Furthermore, some 106 audio records of material related to disarmament and non-proliferation have

been processed from Headquarters and the field, in a number of languages. In terms of research, the Unit has carried out at least two major requests related to disarmament, one on weapons of mass destruction and the other on victims of terrorism, as well as smaller research requests related to disarmament for internal and external projects.

56. The Department of Public Information also provided close coverage of open intergovernmental meetings, press conferences and major statements through its Meetings Coverage Section. During the reporting period, the Section issued more than 290 press releases relating to disarmament in English and French, including more than 120 detailed, real-time summaries of intergovernmental meetings and some 91 relevant statements by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

57. With the use of social media platforms, the Department's information and news products related to disarmament were disseminated in the six official languages and a number of local languages, including through Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Weibo.

B. Public affairs, civil society and non-governmental organizations

58. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information continued its regular interaction with the representatives of NGOs associated with it. In 2013, at the request of the Department, a number of the associated NGOs submitted reviews of their activities in the area of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Among the activities highlighted in those reviews were numerous educational programmes around non-violence issues, promotional and advocacy activities in support of the Arms Trade Treaty and extensive public information campaigns on other disarmament-related matters.

59. The NGO Relations and Advocacy Section of the Department of Public Information also promoted the launch of the book *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!* through its multilingual dissemination channels, including social media platforms. Social media efforts resulted in 11 tweets and 22 retweets, with an estimated reach to 57,387 Twitter accounts.

60. The Visitors Services Section of the Department of Public Information continued to disseminate information on disarmament and non-proliferation in a wide range of ways. Despite significant challenges regarding public access to United Nations Headquarters owing to the capital master plan renovations, more than 300,000 visitors visited the site between August 2012 and July 2014, participated in a guided tour and were sensitized about the work of the United Nations on disarmament. As part of the visit, tour guides speak about conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction, the adoption and ratification of relevant treaties and conventions and arms control activities on the ground. Tour guides regularly receive specialized training, including briefings by United Nations experts and updates on military expenditures, the ratification status of relevant treaties and the work of the relevant bodies and offices involved in disarmament and non-proliferation.

61. The disarmament-related visual displays continued to be an important part of the tour route. Against the backdrop of a wall picture of former child soldiers walking away from guns or a mine action expert detecting landmines, guides talk to

visitors while pointing out showcases displaying several types and sizes of landmines, cluster munitions and the "Escopetarra", an AK-47 rifle converted by a Colombian musician into an electric guitar to spread a message of non-violence.

62. During the reporting period, disarmament matters were specifically featured in 25 public briefings organized by the Group Programmes Unit of the Department of Public Information. In addition, nuclear disarmament was the topic of the briefing for the participants in the 2013 Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists Fellowship Programme in September.

C. Printed materials

63. During the reporting period, United Nations work on disarmament and non-proliferation matters featured prominently in the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, the annual reference work published by the Department of Public Information on the activities and concerns of the Organization, as well as *Basic Facts about the United Nations 2014*, the latest edition of this popular handbook on the United Nations system. Related activities are featured in the multilingual smartphone app United Nations Calendar of Observances, as well as regularly illuminated from an historical perspective through the social media account @UNYearbook.

64. The DPI also actively promoted Office for Disarmament Affairs publications through various print media channels, including trade magazines such as *Foreign Affairs, Choice* and *Documents to the People*. The titles have been regularly featured in the digital media marketing outreach activities including e-Alerts, custom e-mail campaigns and social media postings on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. For the reporting period, the Sales and Marketing Section of the Department of Public Information sold approximately 800 copies of the Office for Disarmament Affairs titles.

D. Special observances

65. The DPI continued to collaborate with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan in promoting and making arrangements for the annual observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August), including on the logistics for the General Assembly informal meetings, which were convened by the Presidents of successive General Assembly sessions in 2013 and 2014 and organized in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan. Last year, an informal meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 September and included a high-level panel on the theme "The Path to Zero: the role of the United Nations in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation". The website for the Day was updated in all six official languages. Department of Public Information promotional activities also included a series of Twitter and Facebook messages in all six languages aimed at alerting followers to the Day and driving digital traffic to the website for the Day. Also, as part of the commemoration, the Department helped set up an art exhibit entitled "Peace Now: Abolish Nuclear Tests and Weapons", organized by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan and designed to raise public awareness about the importance of a ban on nuclear weapons testing.

66. During the reporting period, the DPI also continued its cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other United Nations partners in promoting the annual observance of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April) by promoting the objectives of the Day, providing coverage for UNMAS activities and disseminating relevant information through its communications and distribution channels, including social media platforms and the United Nations information centres network.

67. The Department of Public Information, working closely with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, started preparations for the first ever observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/32 dated 5 December 2013.

E. Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

68. The Department of Public Information was actively engaged in conceptualizing and planning for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Mission set up by the Security Council in September 2013 to oversee the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. Working closely with OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission, the Department developed and managed a dedicated website focusing on the activities of the Mission and implementation of its mandate (see http://opcw.unmissions.org). In addition, the DPI provided logistics and media support to the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission during her visits to United Nations Headquarters.

F. United Nations information centres, services and offices

69. The Department of Public Information's network of 63 United Nations information centres, services and offices continued to carry out disarmament public information activities through media outreach, including placement of op-ed pieces on disarmament and arms control-related matters, production and dissemination of information materials in local languages, and arranging for seminars, lectures, conferences and exhibitions. Below are some selected illustrations of the work done by Department of Public Information offices worldwide.

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

70. To commemorate the 2013 International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the United Nations Office in Baku, jointly with envoys of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action and the International Eurasia Press Fund, briefed schoolchildren and teachers in a village school in Tartar district — one of the deadliest areas in the country for mine victims — and organized a tree-planting event in Barda region. Some 200 students and civil society representatives were in attendance. The message of the Secretary-General for the Day was translated into Azerbaijani and widely disseminated.

71. The Benelux desk at the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels took the initiative to have the UNMAS exhibit "UN Common Cause" displayed as part of a larger exhibition called "Landmines: Treacherous Weapons" in

the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History. The exhibit, held from 29 March to 28 June 2013, was launched by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium and the Minister of Defence of Belgium and was widely covered by media. A colloquium entitled, "The Ottawa Convention: a first step towards humanitarian disarmament", was also organized. In addition, the United Nations Regional Information Centre coordinated the opening ceremony for the "Lend Your Leg" action with the NGO Handicap International. The Centre translated captions for the UNMAS exhibition and related information materials into Dutch and French; and drafted articles for the Centre website in English, French and Dutch. The exhibition was also promoted on social media tools.

72. A special media campaign was organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Bogotá, together with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the Government's Office of the Vice-Chairman, including interviews with one of the most important television outlets — Caracol Televisión; the publication of press kits and a photo exhibition. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva, in cooperation with UNMAS, organized a round-table discussion on the theme "Actors in mine action: challenges and opportunities in today's world", which was followed by a press conference. The United Nations Information Centre in Lusaka sent out messages through short-message service to 4,000 mobile subscribers, as well as through its Twitter and Facebook accounts. The message of the Secretary-General for the Day was translated into Persian and widely disseminated to the media local partners by the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran.

International Day against Nuclear Tests

73. On the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow delivered a statement at a round-table event, organized jointly with the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the Russian Federation and the Moscow-based newspaper *Argumenty i Fakty*. In attendance were deputies of the State Duma, experts from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, and journalists. The United Nations Information Centre in Windhoek organized a mini Model United Nations, with 30 students discussing the issue of nuclear testing. Several information centres translated the message of the Secretary-General on the Day into local languages, including Armenian, Bahasa Indonesia, Persian and Polish, disseminated it to the media and posted it on their websites.

Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Weapons

74. On the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare (29 April), the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support and the Tehran Peace Museum, in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran, organized a ceremony at the museum in 2013. The programme ended with the planting of an olive tree at Park-e Shahr in commemoration of the Day.

United Nations Disarmament Week

75. During United Nations Disarmament Week in October 2013, the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Beirut published an article in the pan-Arab daily newspaper *Al-Hayat* on some milestones in the United Nations history of pursuing disarmament, and outlined some of its mechanisms and achievements. The elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and the high-level General

Assembly meeting on nuclear disarmament were among several breakthroughs cited in the article. The United Nations Information Centre Director was also interviewed by MTV Lebanon, Sky News and Radio Voice of Lebanon.

76. The United Nations Information Centre in Ouagadougou, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, organized a conference to encourage and promote disarmament in Africa. The meeting was opened by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence and the Director of the Centre for Democratic Governance, based in Ouagadougou. About 250 people attended, including government officials, members of the armed forces, diplomats, members of the civil society, researchers and media representatives.

Other activities

77. In addition to the special observances referred to above, United Nations information centres continued to raise awareness of disarmament issues at their events and in their initiatives. For example, on the occasion of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in New York in March 2013, the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran translated into Persian the full text of the Arms Trade Treaty and a series of Office for Disarmament Affairs fact sheets and made them available on its website. It also prepared a press release in English and Persian and dispatched it to Iranian media. It was picked up by major news agencies such as the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and Moj News. The United Nations Information Centre in Warsaw translated the statement of the Secretary-General at the Arms Trade Treaty Conference for media distribution and its website and Facebook pages.

78. In November 2012, the United Nations Information Service in Geneva held the eighth session in a series of joint NGO briefings organized together with the United Nations Office at Geneva and the NGO Liaison Service. The briefing, attended by some 30 NGO representatives, focused on the theme "Key issues in the current disarmament debate" and heard presentations by the Director of UNMAS and other experts who briefed on the state of play in the Conference on Disarmament and the Biological Weapons Convention. The session was preceded by the screening of the film *The Colors of the Mountain* by Colombian director Carlos César Arbeláez, which depicts the conflict in Colombia and the impact of landmines on the life of a child. The screening was organized with the support of the Filmar Latin American Film Festival.

79. From August through September 2012, a number of United Nations information centres, services and offices, including in Ankara, Jakarta, Manila, Panama City and Tehran, translated into local languages and placed the Secretary General's op-ed article "The World is Over-armed and Peace is Under-funded" in newspapers and magazines.

80. In March 2013, the United Nations Information Centre in Manama co-organized a photo exhibition on nuclear non-proliferation entitled, "From a culture of violence to a culture of peace: toward a world free from nuclear weapons". The exhibit was organized with the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies, Soka Gakkai International, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Inter Press Service. The goal of the exhibition was to highlight issues of nuclear weapons through the lens of human security, while placing the work of their abolition at the heart of building a culture

of peace. Since the exhibition was launched in 2007, it has been shown in more than 230 venues in 29 countries and territories.

81. In May 2013, United Nations Information Centre Jakarta translated and published in Bahasa Indonesia fact sheets on disarmament issues prepared by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and produced a short video on mine awareness and disarmament. That material was used at a seminar on disarmament and arms trade organized in partnership with Bina Nusantara University. The United Nations Information Centre Director addressed participants, along with the Director of International Treaties and Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. The seminar was attended by about 80 university students from universities around Jakarta.

82. In May 2013, the United Nations Office in Tashkent co-organized two Model United Nations Conferences. The first Model United Nations Conference was hosted by Westminster International University, and discussed, among other issues, "Fostering international peace and security: disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation". The second was hosted by the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, and focused on the theme "Peace and security in the new millennium: creating a world free of nuclear weapons". About 200 university students participated.

VI. Conclusions

83. During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the arms trade.

84. Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Disarmament Information Programme is orienting its publications towards electronic formats. The two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the Occasional Papers series and Office for Disarmament Affairs Update and other publications are available on the Office for Disarmament Affairs website. E-books are another area where new technologies are being explored to reach new constituencies with mobile information.

85. The Office for Disarmament Affairs website has expanded exponentially in content and specialized websites have been developed for major conferences, which serve as working tools for participants and vectors of public information.

86. The DPI has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continues to be effective.

87. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the support it has received from Member States for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work.

Annex

Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as at 31 December 2013

(United States dollars)

I. Fund balance as at 1 January 2012	415 039
II. Income, 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013	
Voluntary contributions	4 807
Interest income	5 709
Miscellaneous income	287
Subtotal	**10 803**
III. Expenditure	
1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013	34 486
Programme support costs (United Nations)	4 483
Subtotal	**38 969**
IV. Excess (shortfall) of income over expenditure	(28 166)
Prior period adjustments	(2 000)*
Subtotal	**(30 166)**
V. Fund balance as at 31 December 2013	**384 873**

* Represents the cancellation of a year 1996 pledge from Serbia.

Source: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances for the biennium 2012-2013 ended 31 December 2013. Contributions totalling $4,807 were received during the year 2012 from Thailand ($2,000) and private donors ($2,807).